WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink composition comprising a color fine particle dispersion containing an oil-soluble dye, a hydrophobic polymer, and a high-boiling point organic solvent, wherein the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the hydrophobic polymer is 40°C or more.

2. An ink composition according to claim 1, wherein an average particle diameter of the color fine particles is 0.01 to 0.5 μm and has a specific gravity of 0.9 to 1.2.

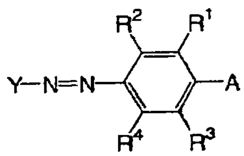
3. An ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the solubility of water in the high boiling point organic solvent at 25°C is 4 g or less.

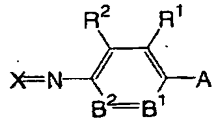
4. An ink composition according to claim 1, wherein an equilibrium moisture content of the hydrophobic polymer at 25°C under a relative humidity of 60% RH is 3% or less.

5. An ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the oil-soluble dye contains at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following formula (I), compounds represented by the following formula (II), compounds represented by the following formula (Y-I),

compounds represented by the following formula (M-I) and compounds represented by the following formula (C-I):

Formula (I) Formula (II)





wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an amide group, an arylamino group, a ureide group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, a sulfonamide group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an azo group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a silyloxy group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an imide group, a heterocyclic thio group, a sulfinyl group, a phosphoryl group, an acyl group, a carboxyl group or a sulfo group; A represents $-NR^5R^6$ or a hydroxyl group; R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group, and R^5 and R^6 may be combined with each other to form a ring; B^1 represents $=C(R^3)-$ or $=N-$; B^2 represents $-C(R^4)=$ or $-N=$; and at least one pair among pairs of R^1 and R^5, R^3 and R^6, and R^1 and R^2 may respectively be

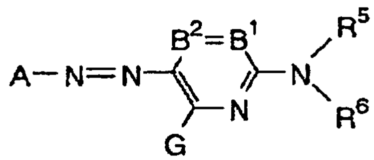
combined with each other to form an aromatic ring or a heterocyclic ring;

Formula (Y-I)

A-N=N-B

wherein A and B each independently represents a heterocyclic group which may be substituted;

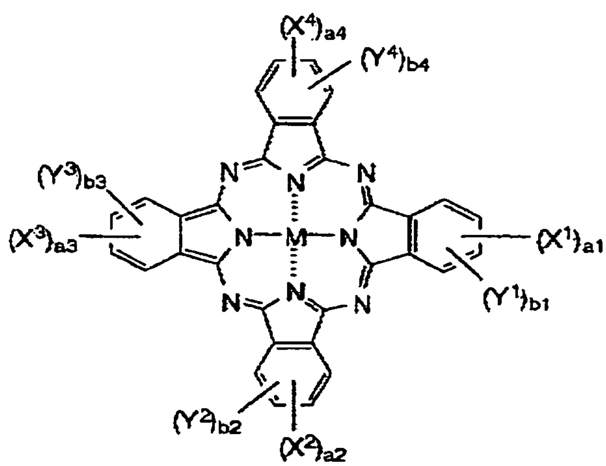
Formula (M-I)



wherein A represents a residue of a five-membered heterocyclic diazo component ($A-NH_2$); as regards B^1 and B^2, when B^1 represents $=CR^1-$, B^2 represents $-CR^2=$, and when one of B^1 and B^2 represents a nitrogen atom, the other represents $=CR^1-$ or $-CR^2=$; R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group where each group may further have a substituent; G, R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy

group, a carbamoyloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aryloxycarbonyloxy group, an amino group substituted with an alkyl group, aryl group or heterocyclic group, an acylamino group, a ureide group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an alkylarylsulfonylamino group, an arylsulfonylamino group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, where each group may be further substituted; and R^1 and R^5 or R^5 and R^6 may be combined with each other to form a five- or six-membered ring;

Formula (C-I)



wherein X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 each independently represents $-SO-Z^1-$, SO_2-Z^1 or $-SO_2NR^{21}R^{22}$; Z^1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group,

a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R^{21} and R^{22} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an amide group, an arylamino group, a ureide group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, a sulfonamide group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an azo group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a silyloxy group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an imide group, a heterocyclic thio group, a phosphoryl group, an acyl group, a carboxyl group or a sulfo group, where each group may have a substituent; a^1 to a^4 and b^1 to b^4 each independently satisfies the following relations: $a^1 + b^1 = 4$, $a^2 + b^2 = 4$, $a^3 + b^3 = 4$, $a^4 + b^4 = 4$ and $a^1 + a^2 + a^3 + a^4 \geq 2$ and represents an integer from 0 to 4, where

when a^1 to a^4 and b^1 to b^4 each denote an integer of 2 or more, a plurality of X^1s to X^4s and Y^1s to Y^4s may respectively be the same or different; and M denotes a hydrogen atom, a metal element or its oxide, hydroxide or halide.

6. An ink jet recording method comprising:

discharging an ink composition against an ink image receiving material; and

fusing fine color particles contained in the ink composition onto the ink image receiving material by at least one of heat and pressure, wherein the ink composition is the ink composition comprising a color fine particle dispersion containing an oil-soluble dye, a hydrophobic polymer, and a high-boiling point organic solvent, wherein the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the hydrophobic polymer is 40°C or more.

7. An ink jet recording method according to claim 6, wherein the ink image receiving material is formed on a support and contains at least one porous resin layer containing thermoplastic hydrophobic polymer particles, and the average particle diameter of the thermoplastic hydrophobic polymer particles is larger than the average particle diameter of the fine color particles.

8. An ink jet recording method according to claim 7, wherein the average particle diameter d_1 (μm) of the fine color particles and the average particle diameter d_2 (μm) of the thermoplastic hydrophobic polymer particles satisfy the following relation: $2 < d_2/d_1 < 100$.

9. An ink jet recording method according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic hydrophobic polymer particles on the ink image receiving material and the hydrophobic polymer contained in the fine color particle dispersion respectively have at least one monomer unit as a structural unit common to both.